

Animal Resources Team Newsletter

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Editor

The DPAAC Animal Resources Team would like to welcome you into the new millennium, and say "Thanks" for facilitating a smooth Y2K transition. Development of your institute's Disaster Preparedness Plan was not merely a Y2K drill, but hopefully, an educational process that has helped prepare you, your staff, and your program for any type of emergency that may arise. We will continue to use the Newsletter as a means of communicating important issues concerning disaster preparedness, and also to help the various institutes and programs organize, coordinate, and implement their plans. Please let us know if you have information you wish to share, or if you want us to address a specific topic of common interest.

Y2K & BEYOND—LESSONS LEARNED

(by Kerry Taylor)

After an overwhelming pre-response preparation, the Y2K weekend was essentially a non-event. Lucky for us, but not without a few glitches. An unknown Linux server was discovered redirecting web traffic, but was quickly identified and immediately shut down. The NIH Command Center was duly impressed with the pro-active response from the animal program community, although the Animal Resource Coordinator at the ORS Operations Center did have to initiate several calls to a few ICs regarding Day One status, and at least one IC did not provide sufficient information to their attending veterinarians concerning when to report.

However, on the plus side, HHS emphasis on Y2K preparation enabled NIH to completely equip the

COOP Command Center for command and control purposes. This should allow the COOP to respond accordingly when an emergency event initiates Command Center activation. Since the ICs are now familiar with disaster/emergency communication procedures, chain-of-command, and prepositioning of equipment, materiel, supplies and personnel, the Command Center can now move ahead with plans to assess individual ICs on their disaster plan preparation and response.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND TERMINOLOGY

(by Diane Bernal)

Emergency situations in which the water supply is contaminated pose quite a challenge. Hopefully, animal facilities will have enough water reserves to maintain animals through such a scenario. The same may not be true for individual/home supplies, so the techniques below may be appropriate for home use should your water supply become contaminated.

There are three basic procedures for purifying water:

- Boiling
- Purification tablets
- Bleach purification

Boiling: Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 10 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. To improve taste, pour from one container to another several times.

Purification Tablets: These tablets are available at local drug stores and sporting goods stores. Follow directions on the package. Usually one tablet is enough per one quart of water. For cloudy water, double the dose.

Bleach Purification: Liquid household bleach can be used if the label lists sodium hypochlorite as the only active ingredient and there is no perfume (such as lemon-scent) in the bottle. Add bleach according to the table below, stir, and let stand for 30 minutes:

Amount of Water	Clear Water	Cloudy Water
1 quart	2 drops bleach	4 drops bleach
1 gallon	8 drops bleach	16 drops bleach
5 gallons	½ tsp. bleach	1 tsp. bleach

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS QUIZ

(by Brad Fisher)

1. What steps should be taken if an unauthorized person attempts to enter your facility?
2. In the event of a natural gas leak or gas spill: Do not use any electrical switches or sockets, locate the origin, shut off appropriate valves if possible....then what?
3. By definition, what is considered an emergency?
4. In the event of an ethylene oxide spill, what steps should be taken?
5. Where is your facility Disaster Plan and have you reviewed it?
6. What is your emergency evacuation route?

Answers to Disaster Preparedness Quiz in the Dec 99 issue:

1. Your facility has just experienced an emergency with minor computer and electrical problems. Animal welfare was not significantly affected, and your facility was able

to continue operations using internal resources. Which code would you report to the Command Post? **Yellow**

2. Smoke, heat, and toxic gases from a fire are the most common cause of fire-related deaths and injuries, not flames. **True**
3. The _____ should be generated after any emergency or disaster. This document should describe the incident and its immediate effects, methods employed to resolve the event, and preventative measures. **After Action Report**
4. Wounds that break the skin as a result of being scratched by objects that have been in contact with Old World macaques are not considered medical emergencies. **False**
5. What do the acronyms COOP and ART stand for:
COOP = Continuity of Operations Plan
ART = Animal Resources Team

SITUATION / SCENARIO

(by Liz SanSebastian)

Facility Problem: HVAC system is down

Facility Type System: Rodent Ventilated Racks

Air Handling Units (AHUs) can become non-functional under several different circumstances, including power outages or equipment malfunctions. Back-up systems for these instances include back-up power generators to keep the equipment operational and/or having a second AHU in the case the primary unit malfunctions. Assuming the back-up systems do not work and the HVAC exhaust system connected to the rodent ventilated rack system is not operational:

- What type of additional care must be given to the rodents that are housed on these racks, now without exhaust?
- How does this change in airflow affect the bedding material, feed, water, ammonia levels, and temperature and/or humidity levels?
- What alternative husbandry procedures should be followed during this time?

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COURSES FROM FEMA/EMI

(Reprinted from the American Academy on Veterinary
Disaster Medicine Newsletter, Jan 27, 2000)

Eighteen independent study courses are currently available through the independent study program. Among these are both modules of Animals in Disaster (IS-10 and IS-11), An Orientation to Hazardous Materials for Medical Personnel (IS-346), and The Professional in Emergency Program Management (IS-513). There are no charges for the courses.

Access <http://www.fema.gov/EMI/is10.htm> for further information.

EVACUATION TIPS FOR PETS

(From the Humane Society of the United States website)

Due to our profession, we may be in a position to advise our friends, neighbors, and loved-ones in emergency situations concerning disposition of pets. Keep these tips in mind:

- Take your pets with you. Many people mistakenly leave their companion animals behind when they evacuate during an emergency, thinking their pet's instincts will prevent them from being harmed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Companion animals depend on us for their survival, much as children do.
- Identify your pet. Securely fasten a current identification tag to your pet's collar. If you face evacuation, it is a good idea to attach to the collar the phone number of a friend or family member who is well out of the disaster range. That way, anyone who finds your pet will be able to reach a person who knows how to contact you.
- Photograph your pet. Carry a photo of your pet for identification purposes.

- Transport your pet safely. Use secure pet carriers and keep your pet on a leash or in a harness.
- Find a pet-friendly hotel. Because most emergency shelters will not admit pets, call hotels in a safe location and ask if you can bring your pet. If the hotel has a no-pets policy, ask the manager if the hotel can waive the policy during the disaster.
- Foster your pet. If you and your pet cannot stay together, call friends, family members, veterinarians, or boarding kennels in a safe area to arrange safe foster care.
- Have supplies on hand. Be sure to pack a week's worth of food, water, medication, cat litter, or any other supplies your pet needs on a regular basis.
- Plan your evacuation and leave in plenty of time. Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate. When rescue officials come to your door, they may not allow you to take your pets with you.
- Carry a list of emergency telephone numbers with you. This should include your veterinarian, local animal control, local animal shelters, the Red Cross, and any other individual or group you might need to contact during the disaster.

!!! HAPPY SPRING !!!

